

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Headquarters
Washington, DC 20546-0001



May 5, 2009

Reply to Attn of:

Chief Health and Medical Office

TO: NASA Occupational Health Clinic Staff

FROM: Chief Health and Medical Officer

SUBJECT: Electronic Health Record System Transition

As the Agency prepares for the inaugural implementation of the Electronic Health Record System (EHRS) at the Stennis Space Center on May 28, 2009, there will be a necessary transition period associated with the process. This transition from paper is likely to affect productivity and clinic workflows for a finite period of time. We anticipate that each Clinic will encounter its own unique hurdles to become fully EHRS operational. However, the new EHRS will significantly increase workflow efficiency, reduce errors and duplication, improve clinical data capture, standardize clinical data gathering processes, and provide access to patient records at remote locations. Implementation of the EHRS will also close the loop on an Agency initiative that has been years in the making.

During each Center Clinic's transition, the Office of the Chief Health and Medical Officer (OCHMO) will coordinate additional training opportunities and conduct regular meetings to discuss any problems encountered and potential solutions. Technical assistance will also be available from the Medgate vendor to address software-related questions. To ensure a formal "complete" to the EHRS implementation initiative, a timeline has been established for each Clinic. Because of the unique circumstances of each NASA Occupational Health Clinic and the need for minimal disruption, we are providing a timeline of six months from the day of each Clinic's rollout for which they are expected to become fully EHRS operational. If we learn that six months is insufficient for one or more Clinics, we will re-visit the deadline on a case-by-case basis.

I wish to thank and commend the many NASA and support contractor employees who made this landmark event possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. S. Williams".

Richard S. Williams, MD, FACS